

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Chevalier for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on October 24, 2005. During this discussion it was noted that Claim 1 as amended merely corrects a typographical error as supported by Claim 1 as originally filed. The Examiner appeared to agree. In addition, some limitations of Claim 2 have been included in Claim 1 to distinguish from Huang et al.

The present invention as set forth in **amended Claim 1** relates to a substrate, comprising:

a relief;
wherein said relief consists of a low surface level and a high surface level,
said high surface level has a height not less than 1/10 of the dimensions of a plurality of motifs forming said high surface level,
wherein said dimensions are in the region of a micrometer,
wherein said height ranges between 0.1 and 10 micrometers, and
wherein said high surface level represents 1 to 65% of a surface of the substrate;
wherein said substrate is hydrophobic/oleophobic.

In contrast, Huang et al fail to disclose or suggest a hydrophobic/oleophobic substrate as claimed.

Huang et al is directed to an article, the surface of which is patterned with alternating narrow hydrophobic areas and large hydrophilic surface areas. The hydrophobic regions are narrower so that the growth of dew droplets is prevented on these regions (see col. 2, lines 65-67). Moisture of air is then forced to migrate towards the larger hydrophilic regions, without forming droplets on hydrophobic zones. There, water is spread into a thin film (see

col. 3, lines 32-34 and col. 8, lines 59-63), due to the hydrophilic nature of said larger areas.

Therefore, the aim of Huang is to obtain a substrate wherein the water is mainly present on its surface into the form of a thin film, thanks to large hydrophilic areas.

This concept is the opposite of the instant one. The claimed textured substrate is characterized by the formation and growth of water drops on the whole of its surface and by an improved flow of said drops, thanks to the **hydrophobic/oleophobic properties** of the substrate and to the particular relief present on the whole of its surface. This is clear from the description and more particularly from the examples, wherein the sought properties are strong angles of contact of water instead of the spread of the droplet into a thin layer over the surface, i.e. very low contact angle. This analysis is corroborated by the fact that Huang et al states col. 9, lines 31-35 that the larger hydrophilic areas exhibit contact angle less than 20°.

The substrate of the present invention has excellent hydrophobic properties as shown by the angles of advance and retreat shown in the Table at page 11 of the specification. Notably, advancing angles as high as 170 degrees and retreating angles as high as 155 degrees can be achieved. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Huang et al that such excellent hydrophobic properties can be achieved.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-10, 15, 17, 18, 27-31 and 61-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Huang et al and the rejection of Claims 5, 11-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Huang et al are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

In regard to **non-elected Claims 19-26 and 32-60, 64**, Applicants note that should Claim 1 found allowable, these Claims should be allowable as well as they relate to methods of making the substrate of Claim 1 and directly or indirectly depend on Claim 1.

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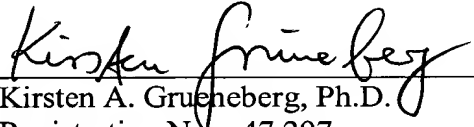
This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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